The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.
Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1913, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

WHOLE NO. 2027 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1950 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 40, NO. 7

Samuel Gompers said:

Some people think that the labor movement's object is to strike. We don't want to strike, but there are worse things than a strike—a degraded, debased, demoralized manhood.

Child Kidnapping Form of Genocide To Be Outlawed

Washington. — Russians have revived the ancient barbarity of kidnapping children as part of that nation's mass destruction of human beings for race, creed or color.

Such kidnapping would be made an international crime by ratification of the United Nations convention outlawing genocide among nations.

This information was given the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations by George P. Delaney, AFL international representative, who urged prompt ratification by the United States of the proposed UN genocide convention.

He came straight from the AFL Executive Council meeting in Miami where prompt ratification was urged as official AFL policy.

"Genocide is a crime directed against innocent men, women and children," Mr. Delaney said.

"When genocide starts, it is directed first of all against the weaker parts of society," Mr. Delaney said. "In some countries of the world where political rights depend on economic wealth, the labor groups are considered weak and defenseless and they are therefore in the first line of attack by the genocidists. In the cases of genocide in this century, labor leaders and labor people were either destroyed directly or became inmates of concentration and slave labor camps.

"The master tyrants of this century and maybe of all modern times, Hitler and Stalin, have transformed the function of labor, which is a function of life and constructiveness, into an instrumentality of destruction and death.

"This depravation and degradation of the social function of labor is the gravest sin that the dictators have committed against modern civilization. History will never forgive them this sin which now, through the Genocide Convention, becomes an international crime.

"We are now witnessing large-scale genocide operations behind the Iron Curtain, especially in the Baltic and in the Ukraine. The Lithuanians, Latvians, Esthonians, and Ukrainians were destroyed as nations and this was achieved, not only through actual killings but also through an elaborate and very significant system of biological destruction. This involves slow death in slave labor camps; breaking up of families so that procreation is stopped; kidnapping children; destruction of the bodies and the minds.

"The Russians have achieved great results in biological genocide which amounts to a gruesome combination of slow death and calculated prevention of life. Through their satellites they have also revived the ancient barbarity of kidnapping children. Twenty-eight thousand Greek children have been kidnapped from Greece by the Communist guerrillas, within the last 3 years. These kidnapped children were taken to Yugoslavia, Rumania and Bulgaria to be brought up in Communist kindergartens.

"The threat of genocide is already hanging over China. We have heard that China must send 500,000 slaves to Russia. Russia will not allow the creation of a new Titoism in China and the way to prevent it is to commit genocide, if not on all the 400,000,000 Chinese, at least on a selected and determining part of the Chinese nation, such as political leaders, religious leaders, educators, tradesmen, labor leaders, all of whom provide the cohesive forces in a nation."

Frank Edwards reports the news at 10 p.m. Monday through Friday on MBS.

Social Security Appalls Dutchmen

Washington.—The Economic Cooperation Administration reported that 13 Dutch trade union leaders on a five-weeks' visit to the U. S. "were appalled by what they considered a completely inadequate social security system here."

This is revealed in reports by the Dutch workmen upon their return home. The Netherlands' leaders were entertained at luncheon during their visit to Washington by the American Federation of Labor, which is supporting legislation in Congress and state legislatures to liberalize and expand the inadequate United States social security system.

Back home, the Netherlands trade unionists are telling the story of their trip by radio and through the press.

They reported being favorably impressed by our mass production methods but said additional study would be required before they could determine whether the Netherlands could increase its standard of living without losing any of the benefits of their social insurance system.

Give to the Heart Campaign.

JOHNSON REVISES SECURITY ROLE

Washington.—Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson today announced a clarification, approved by the secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, of the conditions under which a concern would be denied security clearance to perform contracts containing classified information if he had any employe who could not be given a security clearance.

The revised ruling provides that only those employes whose work will require that they have access to classified material need security clearance. A denial of security clearance does not require the dismissal or separation of the employe since he may be employed by the contractor on other work.

Paper Makers Visit FDR Home

Hyde Park, N. Y.—Members of the executive board of the AFL International Brotherhood of Paper Makers gather in a hallway of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt home which the group visited following a recent board meeting at union headquarters in Albany, N. Y. The ancestral home of the late President, labor's great friend, is a national shrine.

Green Protests Threat to Israel

Washington.—AFL President William Green and CIO President Philip Murray told President Truman in a joint White House visit that organized labor feels "anxiety over the threats" to Israel and "the people of the Middle East through the heavy and needless armaments race now being undertaken by the governments of Egypt and other Arabic countries in the Middle Eastern areas."

They issued a joint statement which said in part:

"From authoritative newspaper reports and other trustworthy sources of information, we are convinced that the objectives of this drive towards militarism is a second war against the State of Israel.

"We regard this development as a threat not only to the new democratic republic of Israel but also to the hopes of the American people for stability and peaceful progress wherever possible in the world.

"Newspaper reports and other creditable evidence indicate that Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq and the other Arabic countries unfriendly to Israel are receiving large supplies of armaments from the government of Great Britain. We appealed to the President to make appropriate representations on behalf of our government to Great Britain to discontinue supplying these Arabic countries with instruments of aggressive warfare obviously designed for use against Israel.

"We likewise appealed to President Truman, since the flow of arms to the Arabic countries still continues, to permit the sale of arms to the Israeli government in order to meet the daily increasing threat to the security of the State of Israel.

"We appealed to the President for additional financial support for Israel. That small and new state has admitted—during the 18 months of its existence—365,000 Jewish immigrants. They have been liberated from displaced persons camps in Germany, the ghettos of Arabic countries, and the increasing discrimination of Soviet satellite nations. The $100 million loan of the Export-Import Bank which the President so generously supported is now virtually exhausted.

"We are hopeful that our government will again support a new loan from the Export-Import Bank and the World Bank in order to make it possible for the State of Israel to cope with these manifold problems."

Hatters Int'l Lends Braunthal to ICFTU

New York.—President Max Zaritsky of the AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union announced the appointment of Dr. Alfred Braunthal, research director of the United Hatters, as the new director of the Economic and Social Department of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Brussels, Belgium, effective Feb. 15.

"His appointment to the post," Mr. Zaritsky said, "was unanimously approved by the executive board of the ICFTU at the joint suggestion of the AFL and CIO delegates who attended the recent London conference. We are lending Dr. Braunthal to the ICFTU because of our desire to help lay the groundwork for the building of a mighty free world trade union federation.

"Dr. Braunthal will, I am sure," continued Mr. Zaritsky, "with his great ability and his charming personality, make an important contribution to the stability and growth of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. We shall miss him at the United Hatters and welcome him back when the new international is firmly established and entrenched."

The Economic and Social Department is designed to service the ICFTU and its affiliated trade unions centers on all matters pertaining to employment problems, social security standards and all other questions affecting the general welfare of working men and women throughout the world. Dr. Braunthal will work closely with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and its affiliated bodies.

Dr. Braunthal has been Director of Research and the economist for the United Hatters since December 1936. He came to the Hatters as an exile from Hitler's Germany, where he had formerly been a researchist and economist for the German Federation of Labor.

N. Y. Purchases 5 Million Stamps

New York.—AFL unions in New York City have caused a run on the Samuel Gompers commemorative postage stamp.

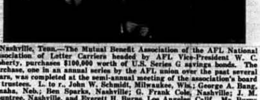
Five million of them were sold in less than 10 days, and an additional 7 million have been ordered from Washington.

This large figure represents purchases made only by trade unions and the general public, since the philatelists, who are generally the most eager buyers of commemorative stamps, sent their orders in to the Washington post office.

The Postoffice Department in Washington reported that 332,023 covers were cancelled and 546,889 stamps sold at the Washington, D. C., post office on the first day of sale, Jan. 27. On the same day 877,795 Gompers stamps were sold at the philatelic agency.

AFL unions have been urged to buy up a year's supply of this first issue of 112,000,000 stamps in order to assure further printings and a year-long sale in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Mr. Gompers birth in 1850.

Letter Carriers Buy $100,000 U.S. Bonds



Nashville, Tenn.—The Mutual Benefit Association of the AFL National Association of Letter Carriers headed by AFL Vice-President W. C. Doherty, purchases $100,000 worth of U.S. Series G savings bonds. The purchase, one in an annual series by the AFL union over the past several years, was completed at the semi-annual meeting of the association's board of trustees. L. to r., John W. Schmidt, Milwaukee, Wis.; George A. Bang, Omaha, Neb.; Ben Sparks, Nashville; G. Frank Cole, Nashville; J. M. Rountree, Nashville, and Everett H. Burns, Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. Burns is president and Messrs. Schmidt, Bang and Sparks are trustees or officials of the association. Mr. Cole is vice-president of the American National Bank at Nashville and Mr. Rountree is Tennessee state director of the U.S. Savings Bonds Division of the Treasury Department.

Illinois AFL Asks Special Session to Raise Pensions

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of
AFL News Service

Chicago.—In a letter to Gov. Adlai Stevenson, the Illinois State Federation of Labor, representing 800,000 AFL workers, asked for a special session of the state legislature to increase old age pensions.

"The Public Aid Commission on July 1, 1949, reduced benefits to aged people receiving old age assistance approximately 10 percent," Reuben G. Soderstrom, ISFL president, wrote the governor.

"There has been no such corresponding decrease in the cost of living, with the result that tens of thousands of superannuated citizens of Illinois have suffered a winter of severe hardships because of the commission's attempt to economize at the expense of those who are receiving too little."

At the February meeting of the Public Aid Commission, Charles V. Falkenberg, chairman of the advisory board of the Cook County welfare department, stated Illinois ranks 25th among the 48 states in care of the dependent aged. In October, the latest month for which final figures were available, the average Illinois old age pension grant was only $44.26 a month. Other states paid as high as $75 per month.

"Illinois is the second richest state in the union, and can afford financially to take care of its dependents," said Falkenberg."

In Illinois, the legislature assembles regularly every two years. The last session was in 1949. The appropriation then made for relief purposes, based on statistics and data of 1948, already has proved inadequate for the biennium.

Unemployment in the state has gone up 172 percent from 101,000 in November 1948 to 275,000 in November 1949. With rising unemployment, the demands for old age pensions, aid to dependent and general relief have increased, speeding the drain of available funds.

To offset an anticipated budget deficit, the Public Aid Commission tightened up investigation of applicants, and eliminated some items from family budgets. Old age pensions were scaled downward on the basis of a survey in June which indicated food costs had fallen 4 to 10 percent in some of the counties in the state.

With all the penny-pinching it appears likely the appropriation for public aid will be exhausted before the legislature convenes again next January anyway. Sentiment for a special session is building up.

The Chicago Federation of Labor, on behalf of AFL city employes, already has asked a special session on the issue of state aid to municipalities to help pay better wages to city workers.

HAYES APPOINTED

Washington.—President A. J. Hayes of the International Association of Machinists was appointed a member of the United States section of the Anglo-American Council of Productivity to replace Harvey Brown, former Machinists president, who is now labor advisor to Gen. John J. McCloy, high commissioner for Germany.

Avoid World Bust By Raising Wages, AFL Advises UN

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for
AFL News Service

Lake Success.—The American Federation of Labor has told the United Nations Economic and Social Commission that its recent experts' report on national and international measures for full employment, while praiseworthy as a whole, made a serious omission in not considering the need for a national wage policy as a means of establishing a well-balanced economy.

The study summarized last month, was ordered by UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie who appointed an outstanding panel of economists to prepare recommendations for a series of measures to be taken in advance of a depression.

Its release was heralded as an important forward international step in avoiding cyclical depression. Although none of the recommendations are binding on member nations, the program suggested is being discussed by UN delegates with a view to eventual incorporation in national economies.

The AFL, which has UN status, told the commission charged with dealing with these recommendations that "among the possibilities of governments influencing the general level of consumers' demand, however, should be mentioned also the stabilizing influence of raising the standard of living through wage increases which should go along with increased production and greater efficiency of production."

This statement was a reply to the experts who, recognizing that among the major causes of joblessness in industrialized countries is the "insufficiency and instability of effective demand," nevertheless avoided an evaluation of increasing wages as part of a fight for full employment.

"One ought to take into consideration also a national wage policy," said the AFL statement presented by Miss Toni Sender, "and the need for a constantly rising standard of living going hand in hand with a steadily increasing production . . .

"It would be a highly valuable task to investigate to what extent a wrong wage policy, failing to create a sufficient effective demand, has contributed in bringing about an unbalanced economy. It is essential to recognize that along with the steady progress of modern technical devices has to go a steadily increasing real income of the majority of the consumers."

AFL Council Meets In Philly During the Union Label Show

Washington. — The AFL executive council will hold its annual spring session in Philadelphia beginning May 8, to run concurrently with the 5th AFL Union Industries Show opening there May 6.

In addition to the council meeting and show, the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor will hold its annual convention in Philly that week. Upwards of 100,000 AFL members are expected to be attracted to the city by the events and more than 500,000 will see the big Union Industries Show.

Selection of its next meeting place was one of the final items of business as the council concluded its annual winter meeting at Miami.

The council planned to go ahead with its invitation to the independent International Association of Machinists to reaffiliate with the AFL. A series of conferences between Machinists and AFL representatives paved the way for further steps for the 600,000 Machinists to rejoin the parent body.

The council conferred with Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin and assistants on strengthening the U. S. Department of Labor. Steps toward building the department through reorganization and President Truman's legislative program were discussed with Secretary Tobin, Solicitor William Tyson and Assistant Secretaries of Labor Ralph Wright, of the AFL, and Philip M. Kaiser.

A committee was appointed to investigate a petition presented to the council by AFL Vice President David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Mr. Dubinsky asked the council to reverse a decision by the Central Trades and Labor Council of New York, on Dec. 15, 1949, which ousted Joseph Tuvim from its executive board.

Mr. Dubinsky said that Mr. Tuvim, a member of one of the Garment Workers locals, was removed solely because of political opinion in the New York mayoralty election.

President Green appointed as a committee to investigate the case AFL vice presidents Matthew Woll, George M. Marrison and Herman Winter.

YOU OUGHT TO EAT BETTER, GOV'T SAYS

Washington. — You may get more food at less cost this year.

The Agriculture Department said so in a report which predicted there would be more turkey but less chicken and dumplings, more spinach and more candy, on your menu.

In general, the department report on the national food situation says everybody may eat just a little bit better than in 1949, when they ate about 11 percent better than they did before the war.

Food prices in 1950 are expected to go down a bit, not up.

Says AFL Politics Follows Gompers Line

New York.—Morris P. Glushien, general counsel for the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, says the AFL political methods today are the same as those established by the founder and first president, Samuel Gompers.

Mr. Glushien made the statement while being interviewed by Dwight Cooke on the Columbia Broadcasting System's regular Saturday afternoon program, "Cross Section—U. S. A."

The program was devoted to the AFL position on President Truman's state of the union message. Following is the unrehearsed questions and answers as taken from the airwaves:

COOKE: I should think a fair way of describing where the AFL stood on Mr. Truman was described in a headline in the AFL News Service. The way you people put it was: Truman asks goal supported by AFL.

GLUSHIEN: I think that's a fair way to put it. Actually we have been for the very proposals which Mr. Truman made for a good many years. So I think it is correct to say that Mr. Truman has supported the goals that the AFL has long asked.

COOKE: I would like to find out something more specific on the famous Gompers' maxim about politics: "Reward your friends and unreward your enemies; unelect them." But he very carefully stayed away from supporting one party or another. Now the fact that you and Mr. Truman are on the same path, whoever got there first, forces you pretty much to support the Democrats in the next election, doesn't it?

GLUSHIEN: We support whoever is for our program. It so happens that at the present time there are more Democrats than Republicans who support our program, and so we will support, in most instances, I suppose, the Democrats who are supporting "us." But, we will, nevertheless, support any Republicans who embrace the same program that we embrace and therefore I think we have not departed at all from Mr. Gompers' maxim. We still reward our friends and punish our enemies, and I think we will continue to do so.

COOKE: So you'd say that if any Republicans claim you're supporting Democrats the Republicans had better get wise to your own ideas of what should be a proper program for all Americans.

GLUSHIEN: That's right. They need not become Democrats, but they ought to support our program. May I add one other thing, if I have a moment, and that is to say that the one thing that Labor's League for Political Education is now doing is working on the precinct level to get out the vote and to see that the program becomes a reality.

AFL Tells Congress Homes Are Needed

Washington. — AFL President William Green told Congress that the American housing industry is failing to build enough homes or apartments and those being erected are too small.

He urged Congress to go take a look at the woefully poor job being done in the Washington area to meet the need for decent housing. He urged passage of the middle-income cooperative housing bill with these main points:

1. "Private builders have failed to pass two simple housing tests: quantity and quality."

2. "I want you to find out about this quality for yourself. I want you to make a visit to a number of private housing projects in the metropolitan Washington area to see for yourself whether private builders are meeting the housing needs of the American people."

3. "Private builders are forcing American families into housing units far too small for adequate family living. If we permit these trends to continue, we are not only encouraging the construction of the slums of tomorrow, but we are creating definite psychological and community problems which will have a seriously injurious effect on every aspect of American life."

4. "A cooperative housing program for middle-income families represents a tremendous undertaking and an entirely new departure from previous housing programs. It must be headed by an individual who believes completely in the program, is vested with a certain amount of independence and is fully responsible for the success of the program."

Mr. Green said that the cooperative housing bill sponsored in the House of Representatives by Rep. Brent Spence is supported by the AFL "because we believe that more than any previous housing legislation it will really meet the needs of workers and their families."

Mr. Green said that the record-breaking one million housing units begun in 1949 were "only two-thirds of what is required to meet our minimum housing needs."

"In 1949," he pointed out, "when industrial production was more than double our nation's annual output during the 20s, housing construction had risen only 45 percent."

Mr. Green urged members of Congress to make a tour to some of the new housing projects in metropolitan Washington. He said:

"You can get some idea of what you would find by studying a recent report of the U. S. Department of Labor analyzing housing units started in the Washington metropolitan area during the third quarter of 1947. According to this report, only 12 percent of the more than 11,000 apartment units built during that period had 4½ or 5 rooms, and not one had more than 5 rooms. This means that only 12 percent of the units had 2 bedrooms, none had 3 bedrooms, and the remainder had one bedroom or none.

"In the construction of one-family houses for sale, the report indicates that 60 percent of the homes started in the Washington area during this period contained only one bedroom, or no bedroom at all.

"To my mind these figures are really shocking. They are a clear indication that private builders are forcing American families into housing units far too small for adequate family living.

He said this has happened because Federal Housing Administration is approving government guaranteed loans for units which "simply do not provide enough space for decent family living."

"The housing units the federal government is approving for middle-income families would not meet the standards set for low-income families in public housing projects by the Public Housing Administration," he said. "The public housing standards represent an absolute bare minimum for decent family living.

"One of the most important reasons why we favor the Cooperative Housing Bill is just because it can do so much to arrest this trend toward the construction of socalled homes which simply do not permit decent family living. We believe that this bill provides a workable method whereby moderate-income families can get together in cooperatives to build decent homes at prices that they can afford to pay.

"The individual in charge of the program should be appointed by the President. We, therefore, strongly urge the establishment of a new unit, to be known as the Cooperative Housing Administration, within the Housing and Home Finance Agency, which would be responsible for the administration of this program.

"I confidently expect that when this legislation is enacted, members and affiliates of the AFL will play a leading role in making this program a success. I know from my own intimate knowledge of the housing needs of the American workers that there will be an immediate favorable response from AFL members and groups all over the country. I am sure that they will be taking a leading part in organizing cooperative housing projects for middle-income families. All of them are looking to your committee for the opportunity to participate in this great program."

GOMPERS VIEWS BROADCAST

New York.—The Voice of America, the State Department's radio program, marked the birthday of Samuel Gompers with a broadcast describing the life and achievements of the AFL's founder and first president. The broadcast was beamed to all European countries.

CONN. AFL PLANS CHEST INSTITUTE

New Haven, Conn.—The Connecticut Federation of Labor planned a labor-social work institute for Feb. 25 as part of the Samuel Gompers centennial celebration.

The institute was arranged under the sponsorship of the Community Chests and Councils of America and is patterned after the successful event held in January in Philadelphia.

Amusement Tax Kills Many Jobs

New York.—President James C. Petrillo of the American Federation of Musicians charges that the 23 percent drop in the cabaret and dance hall business in 2 years is largely due to the 20 percent entertainment tax.

The operation of this special tax on live entertainment, one of the host of wartime excise levies now being urged for congressional repeal, is treated in a comprehensive statistical survey appearing in the February issue of the musicians' journal, "The International Musician."

The tax, Mr. Petrillo claims, discriminates against musicians and other entertainers and is unsound as a means of revenue because it "shows very rapidly diminishing returns, dries up the source on which it is levied, adversely affects employment."

A year ago Mr. Petrillo named a committee composed of Paul J. Schwarz, president of Washington Local 161 of the AFM; Richard J. McCann, president of New York City Local 802, and J. Elmer Martin, secretary of Baltimore Local 40, to work for repeal.

"Any business that suffers a 23 percent drop in a period of general prosperity is—it is fair to surmise—being strangled to death," Mr. Petrillo says. "That's what has happened to cabaret and dance hall business in the last 2 years—nearly one-fourth off its normal dollar volume. There is little doubt as to the major cause of this strangulation.

"The 20 percent entertainment tax paid by these places shows a drop of 22.9 percent for the year ending June 1949 as compared with returns for the year ending June 1947. Multiply the drop in the tax (roughly $15,000,000) by 5 and you find there has been a $75,000,000 shrinkage in dollar volume."

Are you listening to Frank Edwards?

British Machinist Praises Teamwork

London.—John Henry Ashenden, English machinist who has just completed a six-week inspection of the American packaging industry, said a large share of America's high industrial productivity can be attributed to the close cooperation between labor and management.

He said the major reason for the higher productivity of United States workmen over those in Great Britain is the much greater amount of electric power and modern machinery at the disposal of the Americans.

Recent estimates show that every workman in the United States has 7 horsepower to work with compared to 2½ horsepower in Great Britain.

Mr. Ashenden is a member of a British specialist team which recently completed a six-week tour of the U. S. under the auspices of the Economic Cooperation Administration, the Anglo-American Council on Productivity, and the British government.

"Of the many plants I visited, more than 75 percent were union shops," Mr. Ashenden said, adding that practical labor-management cooperation was aided greatly by monthly meetings of committees representing the two groups in many of the works he visited.

"Not only were grievances and working conditions discussed at these meetings," Mr. Ashenden stated, "but also planning for increased production.

"Union representatives are told in advance about new machines and new methods to be installed in their work. In exceptional cases, this may mean that some workers in the plant will be displaced because of the greater productivity of the new machines and methods.

"But unions in the United States are very progressive in their educational work and recognize that in the long run increased productivity means more jobs. That is why they have regularly favored progressive, more efficient ideas. They have found out that everyone benefits."

Our Goal: 1,000,000 new AFL members in 1950.

WORKERS HOLDING ON TO U.S. BONDS

Washington.—Americans bought in 1949 within a fraction of 1 percent as many U. S. Savings Bonds as they did during the peak year of 1948, the U. S. Treasury Department said.

"What's more, they've been holding on to them in greater proportion," the department said.

Total sales of Series E bonds for cash were $4,207,598,000 compared to 1948's record $4,223,556,000.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Samuel Gompers Said:
The labor movement was born of hunger—hunger for bread. It is still a hunger, but now it is for the better things of life.

William Green, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1950 George Meany, *Secretary-Treasurer*

7 Unions Show Way to Peace

National Notice Given 15-Year No Strike Record at Nashua

Washington.—A record of peaceful relations in a plant where management deals separately with seven AFL unions is analyzed in the latest case study on the "Causes of Industrial Peace Under Collective Bargaining" in the series of 15 to be issued by the National Planning Association.

Major conclusion of the study is that this 15-year, no strike, no lockout relationship is based on patience rather than pressure, on hard work and good will—day in and day out, not just during annual negotiations.

The seven AFL unions and the company look upon force as a last resort, because each party to the bargaining understands and accepts the needs of the other for security and growth for economic gains and profits. Neither party has argued for the inflexible application of broad principles such as management's "prerogatives" or union's "rights." Importantly, there is no sharp distinction between making and administering contracts. When need arises issues are negotiated and changes to the contract are frequent. Only two arbitration cases have occurred during this history of collective bargaining.

The on-the-spot investigation of the company and unions was made by Dr. Charles A. Myers and Dr. George P. Shultz, Professor and Assistant Professor, respectively, of Industrial Relations of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Myers is also Executive Director of MIT's Industrial Relations Section.

The company studied is the Nashua Gummed and Coated Paper Company of Nashua, N. H., which produces a diversified line in the highly competitive converted paper products industry. Profits, operations, and the number of employes have shown a steady growth since the company's incorporation in 1904. The expansion has continued since the first union was recognized in 1935, and employe productivity has been high. There have been no costly interruptions of production in this company where profits depend heavily on ability to maintain a high volume of production and sales. Employment has been steady, both seasonally and cyclically, and the rate of separations from the company low. The net effect of the relationship has not been detrimental to consumers or to the public.

The seven AFL unions, which negotiate independently with the company, in order of size of membership, are:

Local 270, International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers.

Local 35, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

Local 359, International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America.

The Stereotypers' Union of Nashua, N. H., a subsidiary of the International Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union of North America.

Local 3, International Photo-Engravers' Union of North America.

Local 352, International Union of Operating Engineers.

Local 14, International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers.

Jurisdictional problems have been worked out amicably in these seven democratic unions, and the international unions of each have encouraged a high degree of local autonomy. The locals are set up on normal craft lines, with membership ranging from 4 in the smallest union to 257 in the largest; and with skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled workers represented.

The unions have secured steady gains in wage rates and in other economic benefits, which compare favorably to the wage structure both of the community and of the industry—though wages are still below craft rates in publishing concerns. Union members have security, dignity, and recognition as individuals in the plants and in their democratically-run unions. The unions, like the company, have outstanding reputations in their community, which rests in substantial part on the quality of their labor-management relations.

To the authors and to the committee these facts show that there are good labor relations at this Nashua company.

One difference between this case study and the six previous studies in the series is the special problems involved in dealing with seven unions. Despite this difference, the description of the parties' approaches to their problems—which are so important a cause of peace in this plant—shows a striking parallel to some of those found in the earlier reports. Among these are:

1. Management's full acceptance of unionism and its belief that strong unions are an asset to management.
2. The union's full acceptance of the need for private ownership and operation of the business for profit.
3. Strong, responsible, and democratic unions.
4. The company's policy of staying out of union's internal affairs, not coming between the unions and their members.
5. The existence of mutual trust and confidence; the absence of ideological incompatabilities.
6. The lack of a legalistic approach to bargaining.
7. Concentration of negotiations on day-to-day problems instead of abstract principles.
8. Widespread union-management consultation and highly developed information-sharing.

Edwards Prepares Radio Script

Washington.—Frank Edwards, AFL news commentator, dictates notes to his secretary, Mrs. Nora E. Leer, in his office at AFL headquarters to be used in one of his scripts for broadcasting. Mr. Edwards' program originates from Washington over the Mutual Broadcasting System Monday through Friday at 10 P.M. and boasts one of the fastest-growing audiences in radio.

AFL and CIO Join ITU in Fight To Halt T-H Union-Busting Board

Washington. — The AFL International Typographical Union has appealed to the National Labor Relations Board to reverse a Taft-Hartley decision which if allowed to stand would "alter the entire basic structure not only of the ITU but of all trade unions."

The appeal is regarded as so important that the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations have requested permission to present arguments also.

The cases involve the Chicago Typographical Union 16 and Baltimore Typographical Union 12. Complaints against these locals by the Chicago Newspaper Publishers Association, American Newspaper Publishers Association and Baltimore Graphic Arts League have been sustained by the labor relations board.

The international union was joined with the locals as parties to the complaint and held to be the bargaining agent jointly with the locals.

Henry Kaiser and Gerhard P. Van Arkel, counsel for the typographical union, said in the petition for reversal:

"By its action in this case, by usurping the function of interpreting the laws of the ITU—a function committed to the executive council by the members—the majority of the board has undertaken to alter the entire basic structure not only of the ITU but of all trade unions.

"Manifestly there is and can be no trade union in which locals are free to disregard the advice of their international union. The pious protestations to the contrary cannot conceal the fact that the board majority will henceforth, under the guise of interpretation, fix the liability of the parties and impose both obligations and powers not voted by the membership and not desired by the locals or officers.

"Collective bargaining has existed in this industry since the early 1800s, and agreements in written form since about 1886. During this entire period, the ITU has not been regarded as a bargaining agent. Unless the statute compels the result (and we have shown that it does not; the minority view is sufficient to show that the matter is at least doubtful) there is no practical or policy consideration which should guide the majority to the result reached.

"There are strong policy considerations to the contrary. If the majority view were to be recognized as law, it would have the following results:

"1. It would allow union officials to intervene in any local negotiations anywhere and at any time, despite contrary directions by union members, and to compromise away the basic laws of the organization, adopted by the membership, if they were so minded. To this extent it strikes directly at orderly and democratic trade union procedures.

"2. It would allow employers to harass the ITU by reiterated demands that it fulfill its obligation to "bargain collectively." It is practically impossible for the ITU to provide the staff to participate in all negotiations merely because some or all employers may think that desirable.

"3. It would subvert the free right of employes to choose representatives of their own choosing, and impose upon them bargaining arrangements which they, through their past conduct, have rejected.

"4. It would increase the financial liability of international unions without their consent.

"5. It would allow employers to insist that local and international unions are the agents of each other for the purpose of service of process, liability for torts or breaches of contract, unfair labor practices, and the like, contrary to well-settled common law and NLRB principles which have recognized the separate legal personalities of the two, thus carrying the Taft-Hartley rule of agency one step further away from Section 6 of the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

"6. It marks government control of the internal affairs of trade unions in that it:

"a. Widens the powers, and the manner of their exercises, of international unions, and *pro tanto* limits the powers of local unions, against the will of both.

"b. Empowers international officers to disregard the rules of the organization, to intervene in negotiations at any time and to impose agreements on local unions.

"c. Compels employes to select a representative not of their own choosing.

"d. Compels international unions to assume financial and other obligations without the authorization of, and against the will of its members."

Woll, Glenn and Thatcher, AFL general counsel, said in joining in the ITU petition:

"The grave importance of the issues presented in such cases, affecting as they do all organized labor, would seem to require that the AFL be permitted to present its views and those of its many affiliates which have expressed a direct interest in these proceedings to the end that the ultimate determination herein be a sound one consistent with the traditions of the trade union movement."

CIO General Counsel Arthur J. Goldberg said that the CIO asked permission to intervene "because of the crucial importance of the board's holdings in these cases to the structure and working of all labor unions and because of the grave errors committed by the board in these holdings."

Kaiser and Van Arkel urged reversal for these reasons:

(1) The decision that the ITU is the statutory bargaining agent of the Chicago printers is premised on glaring factual and legal errors and confounds all relevant precedents; (2) said decision profoundly and adversely affects the historic structure and practice of all trade unions; (3) said decision was reached by a majority of 3 members of the board with 2 members dissenting. Board Member J. Copeland Gray, whose term has now expired, voted with the majority. In view of the transcendent importance of this decision, Board Member Gray's replacement should be given an opportunity to participate in same.

Are you listening to Frank Edwards?

GREEN SUPPORTS HEART CAMPAIGN

Washington. — AFL President William Green urged support of the 1950 heart campaign to raise $6,000,000 to fight heart disease.

He said in a letter to affiliated unions:

"This great effort merits the full cooperation of every section of our nation, for heart disease favors no social or economic strata—it strikes all without discrimination, young and old, man and woman, workers as well as employers.

"I, therefore, call upon all officers and members of the American Federation of Labor to put forth every effort in order to help insure the success of the 1950 heart drive. I am confident that our great American Federation of Labor will make an outstanding contribution in the fight against the ravages of heart disease, among whose major victims are the working man and woman of America."

They Sing of Pensions and Bosses

New York.—President A. J. Hayes (left) of the International Association of Machinists sings some of the new songs from "Sing a Labor Song" by Gerald Marks (at piano) and Milton Pascal (right). The book, sponsored by the Machinists, contains songs about pensions, picket lines, Labor Day and "The Guy I Send to Congress."

Machinists Sponsor Labor Song Book

Washington.—"Sing a Labor Song!"

That's the title of a new book of songs sponsored by the International Association of Machinists.

The big 600,000 independent union, which has been invited to reaffiliate with the AFL, is blazing a new trail for the American labor movement. Never before has a union officially sponsored a volume of new songs.

Machinists' President A. J. Hayes announced publication of the book of 8 new labor songs by Gerald Marks and Milton Pascal. The publisher is Gerald Marks Music, Inc., 1619 Broadway, New York.

"We in the Machinists Union have long felt that the American working men and women needed new songs through which to express their hopes and determination," Mr. Hayes said. "We believe that this collection of new songs will help to meet that need.

"These songs tell labor's story better, perhaps, than all the speeches we could make. I know they will be enjoyed by Americans in all walks of life. I believe that they will help us as Americans to understand one another better."

This collection of new labor songs covers many phases of labor's activities from pensions to the picket line. Included in "Sing a Labor Song" are:

A Pin for Your Lapel (a pension song); Let's All Shed a Tear (for the boss); Fifty Years Ago (reviewing labor's gains over the last half century); Labor Day (a march); Election Day (for use in the register and vote drive); The Guy that I Send to Congress; On a Picket Line (a chant for use by pickets); It Can Only Happen in the U. S. A. (a patriotic song).

Gerald Marks and Milton Pascal, who wrote the music and lyrics of these songs, are the writers of many song hits. Marks' previous hits include such favorites as "All of Me," "Is It True What They Say About Dixie?," "The Night Shall Be Filled with Music" and "Mountain Gal." "I Wanna Get Married" from "Follow the Girls" is one of Milton Pascal's hits.

"Sing a Labor Song," including all 8 songs, will sell for 25 cents with substantial discounts to any union ordering in quantity. A record album of these songs will be available next month.

Show Demonstrates Union Cooperation

Washington.—AFL President William Green says that the purpose of the AFL Union Industries Show, to be held this year in Philadelphia May 6-13, "is to emphasize to the American people that organized labor is willing to cooperate constructively with employers who treat their workers fairly."

In a statement on the forthcoming show, Mr. Green said:

"The symbol of such fair dealing is the union label. The union label on a product means that it is made in America by union workers, under decent union standards and under clean and sanitary conditions. The same is true of the union shop card and button in service industries.

"The union label has served to raise the American standard of living to a level unmatched anywhere else in the world. It is the torch of progress which organized labor holds aloft in its march toward the achievement of a better life for the American people."

President Sets Red Cross Month

Washington. — President Truman proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to raise $67,000,000 for the relief agency.

President Truman urged every American to respond generously.

Hiring Hall Ban Upheld by Court

Washington. — The Taft-Hartley law has struck down again a vital labor-management device for industrial peace.

The Supreme Court upheld an order by the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Board prohibiting the use of the hiring hall on the Great Lakes.

The case involved the CIO National Maritime Union but the principle can be applied to all seamen's unions which won the hiring hall after long years of fighting to stabilize employment in one of the most precarious and dangerous of all callings.

The Supreme Court decision came on a refusal to review the finding of the New York Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the labor board ruling.

The labor board found the hiring hall as operated on the Great Lakes violated the closed shop ban in the Taft-Hartley law. It made a similar finding in a case involving the same union on the East and Gulf Coasts.

The board said that the method discriminates against nonunion seamen.

The AFL Seafarers International Union has invited congressmen to its New York hiring hall to see how it operates and why the Taft-Hartley law should be repealed to permit continuance of this stabilizing method for furnishing seamen to ship companies.

The AFL supports the American Heart Association drive.

MRS TRUMAN 65

Washington.—Mrs. Harry S. Truman was 65 years old on Feb. 13. The President will be 66 on May 8. Miss Margaret Truman's 26th birthday fell on Feb. 17.

U.S. Approving Homes Too Small for Living

By WILLIAM GREEN
President, American Federation of Labor

(Before House Banking Committee urging passage of Spence-Sparkman Middle Income Cooperative Housing Bill)

Washington.—Private builders are forcing American families into housing units far too small for adequate family living.

Federal Housing Administration sets a certain "minimum size of space" for rooms in a dwelling unit which builders of houses and apartments have to meet before they can get approval for FHA guaranteed loans. These standards simply do not provide enough space for decent family living.

Recently, our AFL Housing Committee noticed that some 2-bedroom apartments now being made available in the Washington area were renting at $75 to $80 a month instead of $85 to $95.

Encouraged by this apparent trend, we asked a member of our research staff to inspect these apartments. He found that although the rents in these apartments were indeed somewhat lower than in most new apartment developments in this area, the living space had been reduced more than proportionately. In fact, the living space in these apartments is actually at or near the absolute minimum required by the FHA.

For example, a typical 2-bedroom apartment which our staff member inspected had the following measurements:

Living room—10 ft. 2 in. by 15 ft; bedroom—10 ft. 6 in. by 10 ft. 2 in.; second bedroom—8 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft. 8 in.; kitchen-dining space—15 ft. by 6 ft. 2 in.

This is an over-all area of about 440 sq. ft. which means that the total area of the apartment is about 525 sq. ft.

These are apartments which are being rented to veterans in the Washington area with one, 2, and sometimes even more children.

These are the housing units which private builders are constructing, and FHA is approving, for middle-income families. These facts by themselves are startling enough but they become even more vivid when we realize that the housing units the federal government is approving for middle-income families would not meet the standards set for low-income families in public housing projects by the Public Housing Administration. In our opinion, the public housing standards represent an absolute bare minimum for decent family living.

If we permit these trends to continue, we are not only encouraging the construction of the slums of tomorrow, but we are creating definite psychological and community problems which will have a seriously injurious effect on every aspect of American life.

Grandmothers Want To Be Helpful

New York.—The main problem faced by today's grandmother—as a grandmother—is how to be helpful but not interfering, how to be available when needed, and yet avoid being imposed upon.

Modern grandparents have great confidence in their young people. They waste little time trying to force unasked advice upon them.

These were among conclusions reached in a discussion group for 20 grandmothers—real, expectant or hopeful—conducted by the Child Study Association.

Truman to Stump Ohio Against Taft

Washington.—The AFL Liberal forces are going to have President Truman's active help to "repeal" Sen. Robert A. Taft in Ohio and reelect Sen. Francis J. Myers in Pennsylvania in this year's elections.

Mr. Truman gave the first hint that he will join earnestly in these campaigns to Mayor David Lawrence of Pittsburgh and Attorney Edward Lamb, Toledo, O., during a White House visit.

The President is reported planning a fall campaign in 13 other states as well, including North and South Dakota. He plans to cross Ohio and Pennsylvania twice in what is described as a supreme drive to wrest control of Democratic affairs in Congress from the southerners who have held it for generations.

Word of the plan, with its historic objective of transferring Democratic domination to northern "liberal" Democrats, came from authoritative sources.

"We came here," said Mr. Lamb, "to urge the President to campaign in Pennsylvania and Ohio to elect a Democratic Congress. He said that after the nominees are chosen he will campaign aggressively in Pennsylvania and Ohio to elect a Democratic, progressive Congress.

"He said he would wage as aggressive a fight to elect a Democratic Congress this fall as he waged to get himself elected in 1948."

Besides the Dakotas and Pennsylvania and Ohio, present Democratic strategy calls for Presidential whistle-stop trips in these other 11 states: New York, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Connecticut and Maryland.

Meany Says Hatred Smothers Freedom

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, in a statement on Brotherhood Week beginning Feb. 19, said:

"History teaches us beyond question that workers cannot have or hold freedom to help themselves in a land where racial or religious discrimination is allowed to flower and flourish.

"If we, as workers, are to preserve our freedom here in America we must of necessity keep our minds and hearts ever alive to this danger.

"Group hatred breeds hatred and smothers the democratic way of life."

Incomes High, But Real Gains Small

Washington.—National income for 1949 totaled $210,000,000,000, only $2,000,000,000 below the 1949 record, but—the economic status of the average family was no better because of price increases.

The Department of Commerce, reporting the figures, said median family income last year was $3,300—but that was because many families had more than one income recipient.

And 4,100,000 families, out of a 38,500,000 total, received less than $1,000 a year. There were 26,500,000 families which earned $1,000 to $5,000 during the year.

Higher up the scale, there were 6,900,000 families in the $5,000 to $10,000 category, and only 1,100,000 who got more than $10,000.

The department cautioned, however, that while family incomes were the highest in history—or at an average of $3,200 a year—prices had increased along with income payments "and the economic status of the average family may be no better today than it was during the war period." Last year's median payment (the exact half, as opposed to average) was about $600 higher than during the war years of 1944 and 1945.

The median income of the 34,800,000 families headed by men was $3,300. The corresponding figure for the 3,700,000 families headed by women (the majority of them widows) was $2,100.

About 70,000,000 persons were in receipt of some income in 1948. This was 2 out of every 3 persons more than 14 years old. On the average these people received an income of about $1,900. The median income of men was $2,400, compared with the $1,000 received by women. The median income for families was considerably higher than that of persons, because many families had more than one income recipient.

Gains in wages and salaries were recorded in all industries between 1939 and 1948. Among the largest relative gains were those recorded by workers in agriculture, from a median of $300 in 1939 to $800 in 1948; mining, $1,000 to $3,100; construction, $800 to $2,300, and manufacturing, $1,000 to $2,500.

Employers Reject Union Study Offer

Philadelphia. — A recent offer by the AFL Upholsterers International Union to meet jointly with the Chicago Casket Manufacturers' Association to make an impartial survey and study of the serious economic conditions affecting the casket industry in Chicago has been flatly rejected by spokesman for the Chicago Casket Manufacturers' Association representing 13 manufacturers employing about 500 workers.

The union offer was made to the association following lengthy and uncompleted negotiations between the UIU casket workers' Local 166 and the Casket Manufacturers of Chicago.

In a letter sent to UIU Service Representative Martin Garber, representing the union in these negotiations, International President Sal B. Hoffman stated:

"I authorize you to extend to the Chicago Casket Manufacturers with whom you are presently in negotiations, an offer whereby our union and their association will sponsor jointly, with expenses to be shared equally, a thorough survey and research into the conditions presently existing in the casket industry in Chicago. This survey to be made by a qualified impartial person or outside agency with power to make a thorough investigation as to the reasons why the casket industry in Chicago is not maintaining its full prosperity of former years."

Following the refusal by the casket manufacturers to accept this offer by the union, Hr. Hoffman said:

"We are more than willing at any time to enter into any objective arrangement with our employers in the various industries in which we are represented to resolve, on a basis of mutual study and good faith, the various industry and related problems which exist. I regret to say that, as of this date, no industry officials have seen fit to accept our offer of cooperation and to take those steps which will assure greater stability and bring more prosperity to our industries."

Marshall Aid Hits The Halfway Mark

Washington.—The half-way mark of the Marshall Plan was noted with optimism by the Organization for European Economic Cooperation in its second report.

European workers are now better fed, better clothed, and better housed than they were 2 years ago. In only 3 countries is there now any marked unemployment.

"Certainly there has been a remarkable change since 1947," the report said. "Western Europe was then facing catastrophe."

The hard work of the people of Europe, and the assistance from the United States, now have removed the immediate threat.

"On this reckoning—the reckoning of life or death for western Europe—the first 2 years of the European Recovery Program have been unreservedly successful," the report asserts.

The production effort is succeeding beyond expectations. The OEEC admits that last year there was some doubt that the Marshall Plan countries could meet their own estimates for increasing production.

"The total output of goods and services in 1949 was about 25% above that of 1947, and exceeded the pre-war level; the expansion is continuing, and a further increase of about 10% should be possible by 1952; both in industry and agriculture, recovery has gone much faster and farther than in the 4 years after the 1914-1918 war," the OEEC said.